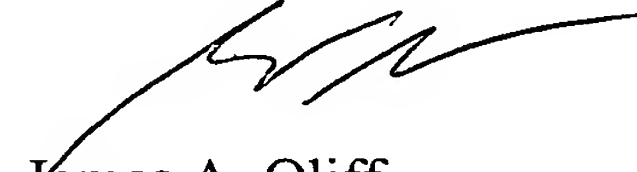


REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 15 and 17 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 15 and 17 have been amended into independent form and claims 9-14 and 16 have been cancelled. Prompt and favorable examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: October 17, 2003

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